Message Text

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SUBJECT: FUTURE ROLE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION (IANEC)

REF: BUENOS AIRES 4126, MEXICO 07869

1. THE INTER-AMERICAN NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSION IS SCHEDULED TO HOLD ITS 10TH MEETING IN LIMA, PERU, JULY 11-15, 1977. IANEC'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, DR. MARCELO ALONSO, HAS PROPOSED FOR FY 78 A PROGRAM BUDGET OF ABOUT DOLS. 400,000 FOR IANEC TO FUND TRAINING, MEETINGS, RESEARCH, EXPERIMENTAL PROJECTS AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES IN THE AREAS OF MINERALS PROSPECTION, NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, AND INDUSTRIAL AND AGRICULTURAL APPLICATIONS OF RADIOISOTOPES.

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PAGE 02 STATE 134808

2. ON JUNE 2, 1977, ERDA REPRESENTATIVES MET WITH TWO OFFICIALS FROM THE OAS WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM A FACT FINDING TRIP TO THE FOLLOWING IANEC COUNTRIES: ECUADOR, BOLIVIA, PERU, PARAGUAY, URAGUAY, JAMAICA, VENEZUELA, CHILE, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL AND MEXICO. THE MAIN PURPOSE

OF THEIR TRIP WAS TO TAKE SOUNDINGS REGARDING SUPPORT OF

THE MEMBER COUNTRIES FOR THE IANEC PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY 78. THROUGH DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT IN GENERAL MOST COUNTRIES VISITED ARE SKEPTICAL OF IANEC AND CURIOUS ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF THE REQUEST FOR FUNDS FROM THE OAS BUDGET. COUNTRIES RANGED IN VIEWS FROM THAT OF ACCEPTANCE PROVIDING THEY COULD BE DIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF THE PROGRAM, TO THAT OF NONCOMMITTAL AWAITING THE RESULTS OF WHAT TRANSPIRES AT THE IANEC MEETING IN JULY AND BUDGET ALLOCATIONS IN LATE SUMMER.

- 3. CONSENSUS OF U.S. AGENCIES IS THAT IANEC HAS BEEN INEFFECTIVE IN THE PAST AND ITS FUTURE IS QUESTIONABLE.
- 4. TO A GREAT EXTENT, THE U.S. WILL DETERMINE THE LEVEL OF ITS REPRESENTATION AT THE IANEC MEETING BY THE MEASURE OF INTEREST WHICH OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES SHOW IN THE ORGANIZATION. REQUEST ADDRESSEE POSTS ASCERTAIN THE FOLLOWING FROM TOP OFFICIALS OF NUCLEAR ENERGY COMMISSIONS AND, IF RELEVANT, FOREIGN MINISTRIES:
- A. IS THE GOVERNMENT INTERESTED IN A PROGRAM OF INTERAMERICAN COOPERATION IN NUCLEAR ENERGY?
- B. IF SO, ARE THEY INTERESTED IN USING IANEC AS A VEHICLE FOR COOPERATION, OR WOULD THEY PREFER ANOTHER? IF ANOTHER, WHICH? IN THIS REGARD, IAEA HAS A SUBSTANTIAL TECHNICAL PROGRAM, INCLUDING EXPERTS SERVICES, REGIONAL TRAINING COURSES, FELLOWSHIPS, AND EQUIPMENT GRANTS, WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 134808

LATIN AMERICAN MEMBER STATES ARE ELIGIBLE TO BENEFIT FROM, AND WHICH MANY DO ON A REGULAR BASIS.

- C. WOULD THEY APPROVE THE APPROPRIATION OF DOLS. 400,000 FROM THE OAS REGULAR BUDGET FOR FY 78 FOR IANEC ACTIVITIES?
- D. WHAT ARE THE NAMES AND TITLES OF THEIR DELEGATES TO THE IANEC MEETING? VANCE

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